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Customer No.:

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Docket No: 2094/1E286US1

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Jeffrey M. LINNEN and Kevin M. GORMAN

Serial No.: 09/493,353

Art Unit: 1634

Confirmation No.: 2146

. Filed: January 28, 2000

Examiner: J. GOLDBERG

For:

OLIGONUCLEOTIDE PRIMERS FOR EFFICIENT DETECTION OF

HEPATITIS C VIRUS (HCV) AND METHOD OF USE THEREOF

02/07/2003 SSITHIB1 00000010 09493353

PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

01 FC:1252

410.00 DP

Assistant Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks **Box PATENT EXTENSION** Washington, DC 20231

SIR:

This is a petition under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 to extend the time period for responding to the Office Action dated September 10, 2002 in the above-captioned patent application. Applicants respectfully request that the time period for reply be extended for a period of two months, from **December 10, 2002** up to and including February 10, 2003.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(a), a check in the amount of \$410.00 is enclosed to cover the estimated extension fee pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(a). Please charge any deficiency in the required fee to our Deposit Account No. 04-0100.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated:

February 5, 2003

Samuel S. Woodley, Ph.D.

(Reg. No. 43,287) Agent for Applicants

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